

Membership Meeting Minutes
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
January 14, 2026, at Aurora Hills Center and via Zoom

2026 AHCA Officers

President Stacy Meyer
First Vice President Alex Chakrin
Treasurer Ben Watts
Recording Secretary Nick Giacobbe
Corresponding Secretary Lexi Tinker

Opening of Meeting

President Stacy Meyer opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda.

Minutes Approval

The draft minutes for the November 2025 regular meeting were approved.

Speakers

- **Veritas Collegiate Academy** – Maria and Sean Elgut joined via Zoom from China to talk about the school on 23rd Street that just received a rating of #1 K-12 private school in Virginia from Niche. They described the classical education approach for their 150 students and how they try to be an active part of the neighborhood (e.g., buying lunches from Restaurant Row rather than running a kitchen).
- **Constituent Services** – Stephanie Bello briefed on the newly formed unit in the County Manager’s office and how they are trying to serve as a place where Arlingtonians can get answers. They handle everything from inquiries to the main switchboard, to mail, to the Report a Problem system and are developing response times that the various offices need to follow. They are also linked up closely with the County Board staff and share a correspondence tracking system.

President’s Updates and General Discussion

- **Melwood** – We are expecting the report on the Local Historic District designation to come out soon, County staff has told us it will definitely not be on the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Commission agenda for January. Stacy encouraged neighbors to continue writing letters and to include a copy for AHCA so we can bundle them.
- **Membership** – Stacy encouraged everyone to be sure to pay their dues, there was a gift card raffle among the paid-up members who are not Board members.
- **Updates from Nick Giacobbe:**
 - **Adaptive Reuse** – JBG Smith hopes to take the proposal for 1800 and 1901 S. Bell Street to the County Board in March.
 - **River House** – Project was approved and rezoned by the County in December, will spend most of 2026 working on construction and permit documents for N1 building.

- **Americana** – Still looking for construction financing (about \$300m) and will seek to extend the approved site plan for another three years. The members had no objections to the extension, and we will pass that position along to the County staff (Crystal City Civic Association also has no objections).
- **Underground Study** – We just learned that it is not due until the application for a certificate of occupancy for 2200 Crystal Drive is processed, so it will be at least 18 months (construction has not yet begun).
- **Use Permit for Scapegoat Beer Garden** – Even though it has not opened, the permit is expiring and up for renewal. The consensus of the group was to resubmit AHCA's October 2024 letter, noting that we are still apprehensive about potential problems with noise, parking, and disorderly patrons. There is also an ongoing issue with the dumpsters blocking the sidewalk on 22nd Street.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** – Stacy spoke about how AHCA is an all-volunteer organization and that we always need help. She flagged opportunities to represent the neighborhood as either a delegate or alternate to the [Arlington County Civic Federation](#) as well as alternate rep to the [Arlington Neighborhoods Program](#).

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
Recording Secretary